THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"And if any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, that he may be edified in all meekness, that he may become strong also." DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 84: 106.

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PROGRESS OF MISSIONARY WORK*

ELDER DAVID O. MCKAY

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I AM THANKFUL for the privilege of meeting this vast audience and partaking of the spirit of this inspirational gathering. It is a joy to look once again into the faces of close associates and dear friends. It is this element which makes the meeting this morning more appreciated than the meetings generally that I have attended during the past three or four years.

THE SPIRIT OF ONENESS AND LOVE

I am glad to report, however, that the spirit of the meetings abroad, wherever we meet Latter-day Saints, is the same as that which we have here this morning. It matters not in what part of the globe the meeting is held, whether in the islands of the sea, in Japan, in Syria, in the Scandinavian countries, in England, Germany, France, Holland— wherever one meets a group of Latter-day Saints whose faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is unwavering—there one finds the spirit of oneness, the spirit of love, the spirit of willing sacrifice for the good of humanity. God bless the Latter-day Saints all over the world that they may continue in that same spirit.

APPEAL FOR AN HONEST HEARING

It is a source of regret to me that such people should be so grossly misunderstood. May I read the following:

*Address delivered at the opening session of the Ninety-fifth Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 4th, 1925.

"We desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against."

These are the words of some Jews from Jerusalem to whom Paul, then a prisoner, bound in Rome, had made an appeal for an honest hearing. They referred to the sect called Nazarene. Everywhere it was spoken against. To-day after nearly two thousand years everybody acquainted with Christianity knows that Paul was falsely accused, and that that sect was vilified by those who spoke against it. It is a simple matter to-day to understand the wrong that was done to Paul and to the believers in the lowly Nazarene, but it isn't so easy for some people to see that to-day in the matter of persecuting a religious organisation history is repeating itself. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as was the Church in the meridian of time, is everywhere spoken against, and its missionaries are falsely accused. Paul, even at the time these men said they would like to hear him, was in Rome because he had been accused of being a pestilent fellow, a mover of sedition, a profaner of the temple, all of which he denied before Festus. He denied these charges also before Felix, he denied them before King Agrippa, and bore his testimony before them, as President Grant has borne his testimony this morning, to the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ. But everywhere the people spoke against him.

IGNORANCE THE CAUSE OF MISJUDGMENT

I have been impressed during the last few years with this fact, that many people, British particularly, seem to choose to believe the bad things that are said against this people in preference to the good. I have tried to analyse why this is so; and I have come to the conclusion that much of it is due to ignorance. There are two principal classes of men and women in the world who choose to fan this flame of ignorance. These two classes are, first, those who will vilify an honest people for mercenary purposes; and second, those who misunderstand or who misinterpret the doctrines of the Church of Christ, and justify themselves in opposing it on the ground that they do not wish their people to be contaminated by false doctrines. The first class, those who wilfully tear down another's reputation to get gain, I think should be classed among the worst people on earth. The government handles a man who will take the life of another, and may make him forfeit his own life for that which he takes. I think next to the heinous sin of murder is the crime of murdering one's reputation to get gain. We have men and at least three women in the world who are guilty of this despicable thing. Such purveyors of falsehood have that within them which seems to feed upon the slander which is current among mankind. Oliver Goldsmith said that this spirit is like the tiger which, after having tasted human flesh, ever afterwards pursues men in order to satiate his appetite.

So the slanderer, who has once gratified his appetite with calumny, makes ever after the most agreeable feast upon murdered reputation. It is a difficult thing to oppose, indeed often it is best not to attempt to oppose it; for as one great thinker has said: "Slander has a strange constitution, the more you oppose it the more it grows." Thus, because of the activity of this class of people, and also because of the activity of those who choose to misinterpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ and justify themselves in opposing it, we find throughout the world that the Church of Jesus Christ is spoken against, not because of what the Church is, but because of what people think it is. There is a vast difference between those two things.

IN SPITE OF ALL, THE WORK OF GOD IS GROWING IN EUROPE

But, brethren and sisters, I am delighted to report to you that in spite of this condition the work of God is growing by leaps and bounds in the European Missions. In Great Britain, where I have spent much of my time during the past few years, I am pleased to report that the work is progressing, and that the outlook is most favorable. There one hundred and fifty young men are devoting their time to the spreading of the truth, and to the contradicting of these vile stories that have received such current circulation in that country. The same may be said of the other missions in Europe. In Holland the work is growing. Only last October, on a Wednesday night, Amsterdam Hall, just dedicated for the little branch there, was crowded to overflowing, and that is but typical of most of the meetings held there.

The French Mission has just been organised, but in Switzerland the branches are growing, slowly it is true, but growing.

In Belgium, part of the French Mission, the work is increasing rapidly.

In Syria, Brother J. Wilford Booth is devoting his life to the work among the Armenians, and the cause is in good hands. True we are not doing much missionary work there, but rather taking care of the little branch that is ours, waiting for the opening of that great mission.

In the Scandinavian countries we find the same spirit of progress.

GROWTH IN GERMANY

In Germany the work is growing by leaps and bounds. You will be interested to know that last March in Koenigsberg when we held our conference, there were sitting on the stand in the beautiful gymnasium, part of a public school, seventy-five children who furnished music for the six hundred people assembled in a Sunday School session of conference. That night seventy-five adult voices furnished the music for the conference, the hall crowded to capacity, and as part of that service they rendered

most efficiently and effectively part of Haydn's "Creation." On that same tour, on the following Tuesday at Stettin, we found the hall crowded to capacity at ten minutes to seven o'clock. An excellent choir furnished the music. On our way to that service, publicly announced, we passed on our left the jail in which some of our Elders had been incarcerated but a few years before, for preaching, or attempting to preach, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On the following Sunday, in one of the large assembly rooms of a school-house in Berlin, there were assembled over one thousand children, Sunday School members, in one of the most inspirational Sunday School sessions I have ever attended. It is a significant fact that the street-car officials of that great city ran special cars for the benefit of the Latter-day Saint children. That afternoon we met in the Staat Hall in Berlin, twelve hundred eighty-six people worshiping God there without molestation. Five minutes' walk from where we met stands the jail in which President Clawson, my brother Thomas E., and some of their fellow-workers were incarcerated, a few years ago, for attempting to hold meetings such as we were holding there with permission of the Berlin authorities. On October 7, 1924, in Hamburg, we held a most remarkable conference. On the Saturday night, a choir of one hundred voices, nearly all of whom were members of the Church, rendered Evan Stephen's "The Vision" in a most inspirational manner. Sunday night, as the concluding number of an inspirational, never-to-be-forgotten conference, that same choir sang "The Martyrs." These two great productions have been translated into German by one of our own brethren. The choir had been trained by one of our own Elders.

THE FIRST-CLASS PRESS MORE FAVOURABLE

Saturday night the choir of one hundred voices was assisted by one hundred fifty children who sang "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah." A man not in the Church was sitting by my side, and when those combined choirs sang so inspiringly and in perfect tune, so far as my ear could detect, I dropped my head because of the tears in my eyes, and I saw tears rolling down my companion's cheeks, impressed beyond expression. These are but a few incidents indicative of the progress now being made in the European Missions. Another encouraging indication is the fact that leading papers in London and Liverpool and other great cities of the European Missions have refused to print slanderous stories about the so-called "Mormons." A few years ago these vile slanders were given free currency. I will add also that the Latter-day Saints in those missions are united with the Elders in counteracting the falsehoods and vilifications and vituperations that are so generally accepted as true. Tracting societies, carried on by our own members, are quietly, though effectively, overcoming the ignorance that seems to be the cause of the misunder-

standing against this great Church, which stands for all that the Gospel of Jesus Christ contains.

OUR ELDERS TEACH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIANITY

Recently I read a summary of the fundamental teachings of Christianity given by Albert P. Fitch, formerly professor in Amherst College, one of these modernists to whom President Grant has referred. The first fundamental in the spirit of Christianity he gives is the ethical and religious supremacy of Jesus Christ. This faith means believing what Jesus said regarding the moral and religious nature of God and man. The second fundamental he names is the acceptance of Christ's religious teaching and practice, on the ground that it sets forth the principle which can be workable on our world, and the one principle potent enough to overcome our world. As the third condition in that belief he begins with Jesus' teaching as to the nature and character of God; and he names the Father, whom Jesus teaches, as having redemptive love freely and supremely given, supremely exemplified in good will toward man. The fourth condition of this universal belief in Jesus means to be a son and a brother in this kingdom, this Divine family which Jesus teaches; and to be a son and brother means to love our fellowmen the way God loves us.

These this prominent writer gives as the fundamentals of Christianity. These the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ are preaching. Their aims are lofty, their purposes are sublime, and the world, instead of speaking against them, should encourage them and uphold them. Particularly is this true of the State of Utah. Every citizen of this State owes an obligation to the two thousand missionaries who are out representing this State in honour. Why should anyone condemn the missionaries who are out preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ without price, paying their own expenses for teaching to the world the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and bearing witness, in kindness and love, that our Father has appeared to man, that His Son Jesus Christ has been raised from the tomb and now lives, bearing witness to the world of the immortality of the soul? Who should vilify people for standing on that sublime ground? They testify further that the Church of Christ is organised in its perfection, and if the world will accept that Church and apply its principles economically, educationally and socially, the brotherhood of man will be established and the Millennium for which all honest souls are longing will be hastened.

TESTIMONY

I testify to you here that God lives, that He is near to His servants, and will hear and answer them and guide them when they come to Him. I know that my Redeemer lives. I know it!

I know that He has spoken to man in this age. I know that His Church is established among men. God help us all to be true to it and help the world to see it, as it is, and not as ignorant men and vicious men and women sometimes picture it, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

LATTER-DAY SAINTS residing in the Scottish District held their conference at Glasgow, June 7th. The District was well represented by members and friends from that city as well as from the outside Branches. Great interest was manifest because of the presence of President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage. There were also in attendance President William A. Monson of the Newcastle Conference, President Joseph E. Tillotson of the Birmingham Conference, President Junius S. Romney and all the Elders laboring in Scotland.

Songs, speeches and recitations were given by the Sunday School children, dealing with the subject "Revelation." The program was presented in a unique manner. Both President and Sister Talmage expressed words of commendation to those who had taken part and to the author of the program. Sister Talmage explained the reasonableness of modern revelation and admonished the children not to forget the things they had learned. President Talmage told how in the days of Noah the people ridiculed this servant of God, who was building an ark inland; but that the time came when rain fell in torrents and the great waters heaved beyond their bounds, and then it was too late for the people to escape the deluge. He declared with all solemnity that God did speak to His prophets in the olden days and that He is similarly speaking to-day.

All the Traveling Elders gave short talks and spoke with positiveness as to their individual testimonies of the Gospel. President Monson and President Tillotson expressed gratitude in being able to attend the conference and urged the people to diligence in righteousness. A quartet of talented singers rendered the selection "Awake, Ye Saints of God, Awake." A piano solo was given by Sister Elizabeth Sutherland.

The Mission President, in the evening session, spoke on "Religious Freedom." He said a religion should be practical and make man better, and that a religion that fails in this is worthless. This life is a test, he said, to prove whether or not we will do what the Lord commands. We may refuse to keep the Lord's commandments, he affirmed, but the day will come when there shall be a reckoning and we shall have to give an account of ourselves. The speaker testified that the signs of the times are

ripening, that these are the last days and that the Millennial Era is near.

REED E. CALLISTER, Conference Clerk.

THE HIGHER VIEW

"WHERE, where are the men for the oncoming years?"
A greybeard's disconsolate cry;
For he dwells 'mid the bygones, and verily fears
That all greatness is dead or will die.

"Gone, gone are the sires, and the sons are swift passing;
The giants are under the sod.
Where, where are the armies of Israel massing—
The hope of the Kingdom of God?

"Yea, where are the prophets, the songsters, the sages,
God's rulers, through whom He hath reigned
Since Chaos was quickened, and launched on the ages
A new world to glory ordained?"

So the pessimist sang, and his doleful refrain
Smote my ear with a sorrowful sound.
Then straightway the Spirit within me made plain
A clear view from loftier ground.

'Tis not true, said my soul, that the mighty have ceased,
That all greatness is passing away,
Or more precious the knowledge at yesterday's feast
Than the banquet provided to-day.

In the wide human forest by Providence planted,
Great trees are yet growing sublime;
When breaks a worn beam, or a new helve is wanted,
'Twill be found in its season and time.

What though, summoned hence by the Chieftain commanding,
Hosts vanish? Why count them as slain?
No more are they dead than the legions now landing,
To strive here on life's battle plain.

The Past is a parent; To-day a descendant,
Whose heirs are the ages unborn;
Like springing from like, in a scale still ascendant;
How then shall the future be shorn?

Deem not the All-wise, the Almighty Creator
Of stars, suns and systems untold,
A bankrupt to fate, an apprentice to Nature—
He is God—the same God as of old.

Can the glory e'er pale, the intelligence perish,
That founded Eternity's Throne?
When failed the Good Shepherd His chosen to cherish?
Fear not—He will care for His own.

ORSON F. WHITNEY

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925

EDITORIAL

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT

It was very appropriate to choose as a name for one of the large and influential auxiliaries in the Church the expressive designation "Mutual Improvement Association." Its initials, "M. I. A.", separate or in monogram, are almost as familiar to the Latter-day Saints as their more general abbreviation, "L. D. S." There is more than appropriateness in the name; it is inspirational, summoning, challenging. Improvement means betterment, progression, advancement—and that may pass as a fair summary of the Divine purpose in the creation of man.

Eternal progression is provided for in the Lord's economy. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" was and is the admonition of the Saviour to men; and surely He did not command the impossible. The capacity for self-improvement—the power to advance—is a Divine birthright conferred upon man by his Eternal Father, who is verily the "Father of spirits" otherwise declared to be "the God of the spirits of all flesh."

We may not be able to conceive of absolute perfection, but even relative perfection is attainable only through rightly directed effort in which the mortal and the Divine co-operate. True advancement carries with it the capacity for yet greater progression; in other words, the increment of improvement increases as we improve. Moreover, as one advances along any line of worthy endeavour he acquires increasing power to assist others; and, as human beings are of greatly diversified capacities, any one may learn something from another, and each may be a teacher or a helper to the rest. Thus each of us may be in turn, or at the same time, both teacher and learner, benefactor and beneficiary. This is quite in line with our Father's plans; He wills that we be mutually helpful. To this effect the Lord has given specific commandment in the current dispensation.

"But, verily I say unto you, teach one another according to the office wherewith I have appointed you; and let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me."

"And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom."

". . . Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith." Doctrine and Covenants 38: 23; 88: 77, 118.

These general remarks are suggested by thought of the great jubilee celebration of the M. I. A. organisation, held in Salt Lake City, Utah, during the current month. It was in June, 1875, that a general organisation of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association was effected, under the inspired direction of President Brigham Young. Six years prior to that time, in 1869, that great leader had formed an organisation of young women, which at first was known as the Retrenchment Society; and this in time developed into the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association. To-day the M. I. A. consists of the two organisations, and these operate along their special lines of adaptation to the educational needs of young men and young women respectively; but the two work in harmonious affiliation on all matters of common interest.

The field reserved to the M. I. A. within the Church is not distinctively theological or specifically religious, except so far as the spirit of practical religion, which means right living, pervades all the activities of the Associations.

History, literature, science, art, all have their place in the prescribed course of study; but, in addition to these, attention is given to wholesome sports both indoor and outdoor, to debating, to folk-dancing, to music and the drama. Pageantry, in the presentation of ennobling themes, has been highly developed in the Associations. Boy Scouts and the Bee-Hive Girls are well-established divisions subsidiary to the general organisation.

The present membership of the M. I. A. is about one hundred thousand, almost equally divided as to young men and young women. Naturally the highest attainment in efficiency is reached in the established Wards and Stakes of Zion; but the Mutual Improvement Associations are operating with splendid effect in the Missions of the Church. It is interesting to note that in the great parade, which formed a feature of the jubilee celebration in Salt Lake City, a place of honour was given to the representatives of the British Mission.—J. E. T.

THE KIDDERMINSTER DEDICATION

SUNDAY, June 14th, was marked by the consummation of fond hopes and yearning desires of long duration in the Birmingham Conference, for, on that day the newly-acquired chapel at Kidderminster, formerly of the Countess of Huntingdon Church, was dedicated with impressive services. Mission President James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve, Sister May Booth Talmage who is president of the Relief Societies of the European Missions, Mission Secretary Kenneth F. Schade, and Secretary-Treasurer Howard Cook, together with President Joseph E. Tillotson and all the Traveling Elders of the Birmingham Conference were present.

The building and its surroundings are indeed inspiring to look upon. For months the missionaries of the Birmingham Conference, members of the Kidderminster Branch and others have contributed their time and effort to place the property in fit condition as a place of worship. Both interior and exterior repairs have been made under personal supervision of the missionaries, and to-day the chapel with its lawns, flowers and walks stands as a testimony to the thrift and unselfish sacrifice of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

So seldom is there an occasion for dedicating a chapel that the members of the Birmingham Conference and their friends gathered with enthusiasm and reverent earnestness at Kidderminster for this important and long to be remembered event.

In the afternoon meeting—specifically the dedicatory service—Branch President Robert L. Dunn spoke briefly and feelingly by way of welcome, and especially in appreciation of the presence of an Apostle of the Lord. A short history of the chapel and its transfer from the Countess of Huntingdon Church to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was given by Conference President Joseph E. Tillotson.

President Talmage spoke to the subject "What does Dedication mean?" He cited numerous scriptural instances to show that certain places, times, material things, and men have been specifically set apart for purposes pertaining to the service of God. Mount Sinai was thus sanctified and for the time was holy while the Lord therefrom gave commandment to Israel. Miriam, because she spoke against a holy man, though he was her brother, felt the weight of Divine displeasure. In referring to the Sabbath, now Sunday, the speaker said there was no distinct physical difference in comparison with other days, nevertheless this day, being set apart for devotion to the service of our Lord, is holy, and whosoever violates it knowingly breaks the definite commandment of God. In using the holy vessels of the Temple for impious purposes, Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, sealed his fate.

President Talmage passed from his address to the dedicatory prayer, which comprised solemn invocation of blessing upon the house with its contents and surroundings, supplication for its acceptance as a house to be reserved and preserved for the worship of the Lord, and its setting apart as a sacred place.

At the evening session Elder Alvah N. Stout testified to the fact that Christ is at the helm of this great latter-day work. Elder Kenneth F. Schade affirmed that "Mormonism" is natural and reasonable, and that it embraces all truth. Elder Howard Cook by illustration showed that a life of charity and love was to be desired above all earthly riches. Sister Talmage stated that the Church provides every needed opportunity for the education and uplift of women, and that in this respect, the Mutual Im-

provement Associations, which are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this year, are doing a wonderful work.

President Talmage showed that no power, man, or government has the right to take from the individual his prerogative to worship, so long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others. The speaker averred that worship is not form or ritual, nor mere prayer of words. The Lord, he said, rules and reigns through a righteous system, and obedience to Divine commandments constitute the true form of worship. The speaker testified that God is eternal, and His laws likewise, and that "Mormonism" is in the world for the world's good.

President Talmage announced the honourable release of Elder Joseph E. Tillotson from the presidency of the Birmingham Conference. President Tillotson had served long and faithfully in that capacity and won the respect and love of all who knew him for his unfaltering devotion to the cause of truth. Elder Alvah N. Stout, who has been acting as presiding officer in the absence of President Tillotson, was made President of the Birmingham Conference. The announcement was received with evidence of great appreciation.

LESTER D. HOVEY, Conference Clerk.

GREETINGS

FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY AND PRESIDENCY OF THE M. I. A.

EDITORIAL NOTE: June is Mutual Improvement Association time in the Church. Every year, in this first of summer months, a general conference of the organisations, together with the Primary Associations, is held in Utah; and, as stated in our current editorial, this year's celebration has taken the form of a grand Jubilee, to commemorate the completion of a half century of systematised work under the Mutual Improvement banner. We present herewith a little letter of greeting and rejoicing from each member of the presiding body of the Young Men's and the Young Ladies' organisations respectively. These expressions of well-founded encouragement first appeared as official publications in that meritorious magazine, the *Young Woman's Journal*, for the present month.

FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT Y. M. M. I. A.

There are hundreds of magazines printed in the English language, but I know of only one that is primarily intended to properly develop the spiritual, as well as the intellectual, life of young girls, and that is the *Young Woman's Journal*. Only such articles as wise parents would be pleased to have their daughters

read appear in this splendid publication. Highest ideals have been set forth in delightful stories and the beauties of a pure life are presented in a fascinating manner. The editors have sought to establish their readers on a sure foundation of faith in our Heavenly Father, without which the real joy of living would be lost; but with the assurance that we are really His children our lives are enriched, our aspirations are intensified, and we live more abundantly. The nobility of the character of the Presidency and General Board of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations is reflected in every issue of their splendid organ, to the blessing of the daughters of Zion, and the honour and glory of our Heavenly Father. We are fortunate to possess such a magazine. We are living in a marvelous age, but in no part of the world are so many opportunities offered to the rising generation as are enjoyed by the boys and girls of the M. I. A., whose bodies are clean, and whose minds are pure, and who enjoy the companionship of the sweet Spirit of the Lord.

Our Jubilee is at hand. Mutual Improvement Associations have stood the test of half a century, and have contributed to the development of peace and happiness in the lives of thousands. Much has been realised, but much more will be accomplished, as the two great Associations, organised under the direction of the Prophet of the Lord fifty years ago, march steadily forward, exemplifying in their lives their splendid slogans, and unitedly holding aloft their banner, "The Glory of God is Intelligence." The next fifty years portend great things for those whose lives are righteous and who seek the counsel of our Heavenly Father; and the effort of thousands of faithful Mutual Improvement workers will be to prepare our young people to take advantage of the blessings their Creator has so generously offered to them. Our cause is just, our progress is upward, and we are sure to succeed.

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

FROM THE FIRST ASSISTANT IN THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY Y. M. M. I. A.

In our young peoples' organisations, the aim is to provide examples and teachings that tend always to make people happier and better.

Health being one of the fundamentals upon which success must generally be built, the Mutual Improvement Associations aim to teach modern methods of sanitation, and modern methods of health, in an effort to produce a generation of young people well nigh perfect physically.

Upon this splendid physical foundation the aim is to build that more valuable quality called character, with all the other necessary qualities to make of our young people men and women who

can and will succeed. These organisations provide the recreation, training, and education, which are necessary to produce well rounded and successful lives.

No other institution is giving such a well rounded experience and training for young people. Look into the faces of the thousands who will be in attendance at our Young Peoples' conference in June. Then let your imagination play and see how much stronger and better will be the generation produced with these new and modern methods in the years that are to come. Those who were born fifty years ago were born into a world that can be described with three words—dirt, ugliness, disease. The world in which we now live can be described with three other words—cleanliness, beauty, health. It is upon these latter three that the Mutuals are founded. Who is wise enough to predict what a generation of young people with such a foundation can do, when they are going forward with an abiding and implicit faith in Divine Providence? With such a faith the future will find them struggling valiantly to make themselves perfect, "even as our Father which is in Heaven is perfect."

RICHARD R. LYMAN

FROM THE SECOND ASSISTANT IN THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY Y. L. M. I. A.

One of the greatest responsibilities has been assigned to the Mutual Improvement Associations—to interest and hold the young men and young women loyal to the Church, clean from the sins of the world, and prepared to render service in the Lord's great work. We are well equipped to do this work, with the finest program that has ever been prepared by inspired men and women and a perfect organisation. With the Lord's help the devoted workers in this case can not fail.

MELVIN J. BALLARD

FROM THE GENERAL PRESIDENT Y. L. M. I. A.

The Mutual Improvement Association stands for what its name implies, education, development, helpfulness, growth. That it has accomplished much during fifty years is testified by the thousands of young men and women it has helped to understand the real purpose of life.

The organisation was effected and designed to plant deep in the plastic mind of youth the foundation-stones of character—faith in God the Eternal Father, love of truth, virtue, honesty, integrity, upon which could be reared the superstructure of true, intelligent manhood and womanhood that would be the equal of the best in the world.

May the good work begun grow and strengthen in future years. May the members of the Mutual Improvement Association let

their light so shine that others seeing their good works may glorify their Father who is in Heaven. May they become not only preachers of the word but doers of it also; not only teachers of the principles of truth by word of mouth alone, but by their high moral character may they preach stronger sermons and lead more souls to God. May they become bright and shining stars in the firmament of truth, reflecting the great and glorious light of the Sun of Righteousness.

MARTHA H. TINGEY

FROM THE FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE GENERAL PRESIDENCY Y. L. M. I. A.

Month by month and year by year the M. I. A. has grown and spread its branches until, like the tree that stood by the River of Life and "bare twelve manner of fruits", it is glorious in the variety of God's children that it serves. Youth and Beauty, like the tender leaves of springtime, make glad the entire tree. Young men and women, resembling the beautiful blossoms, forecast the bounteous yield, while like the ripened, luscious fruit, the mature members are splendid to look upon, insomuch that admiring beholders are led to exclaim "Whence this wonderful tree and how comes the fruit thereof so nearly perfect?" "Ah!" said a Voice, "The tree sprang out of the Garden of the Lord. It has been watered from the Fountain of Truth, and pruned and nurtured by the skillful Gardener, who sends the dews and the rain to beautify and refresh the earth."

RUTH MAY FOX

FROM THE SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE GENERAL PRESIDENCY Y. L. M. I. A.

Nearly a hundred years have passed since our Father announced "A marvelous work and a wonder" about to come forth among the children of men. To be among those privileged ones assisting in this marvelous work is the heritage of the youth of Zion.

Truly our hundred thousand Mutual members are a "Royal Army", children of Ephraim, upon whose heads the Lord has pronounced His choicest blessings. This army has been marching steadily forward; from a small beginning it has become a potent factor for good. May the coming years see it grow in membership and increase in service until it is known the world over for its high standard of righteousness.

LUCY GRANT CANNON

LOOK NOT MOURNFULLY into the past: it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present: it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Outing—On Whit-Monday the Sparkbrook branch (Birmingham Conference) had a ramble at Sheldon, near Birmingham. The party played games and luncheon was afterwards served.

Union Meeting—At a union meeting of the Leeds Conference on June 6th, problems concerning the work in the auxiliary organisations were considered.

Bazaar—The Bradford Branch (Leeds Conference) Relief Society held a bazaar and concert on June 6th. The latter consisted of a sketch given by members of the Clayton Branch, and musical numbers rendered by Sister Clara Harrison and Elder David W. Eardley.

Baptisms—Five candidates were baptised by Elder J. Earl Stuart on June 6th, at a Baptismal Service held in the Govan Hill Baths, Glasgow, Scotland. They were confirmed by President Junius S. Romney and Elders Jesse W. Thomson, Floyd C. Stuart, and Edward Blake. Elder Jesse W. Thomson gave a short address on the necessity of baptism.

Branch Conferences—Branch conference was held in Wigan (Liverpool Conference) on Sunday, June 7th. A well-prepared program was rendered by the members of the Sunday School in the afternoon session. The speakers of the day were President Rulon W. Openshaw and Elders Rollo E. Watkins and Cecil B. Crane.

Conference was held in Nelson (Liverpool Conference) on Sunday, May 31st. "Service" was the theme carried out in the Sunday School session. Elders Parley A. Peterson, Alfred E. Randall, James M. Armstrong, Allen O. Johnson and President Rulon W. Openshaw were in attendance, together with many friends and members.

Socials—On Saturday, May 30th, a conference social was held in Sunderland (Newcastle Conference). A delightful program, comprising songs, musical selections and recitations, was rendered, after which games were played. President and Sister Talmage, President William A. Mouson and all the Traveling Elders of the Newcastle Conference, and a number of members and friends from each of the branches were present.

A farewell social was held in the Burnley Branch (Liverpool Conference) on June 9th, in honour of Sister Mary E. R. Duckworth who is emigrating to Toronto, Canada.

The Glasgow Branch (Scottish Conference) entertained, on June 9th, in honour of President Junius S. Romney who has been

transferred to the Liverpool Office. President Romney has laboured in the Scottish Conference for the past three months. A fitting program was given, and a light lunch was served. The guest of honour was presented with a fine copy of Scott's Poetical Works.

On June 10th the Relief Society of the Edinburgh Branch (Scottish Conference) gave a party in honour of Elders La Moin H. Wiser and J. Deloy Hansen, who have been transferred. The program consisted of songs, readings, and a musical selection on the organ. Light refreshments were served and the departing Elders were given suitable gifts as tokens of respect.

Missionary Meetings—On May 29th the Elders of the Norwich Conference met with President Ralph C. Jones at Lowestoft in a regular monthly Priesthood meeting. Favourable reports were made by each Elder and timely instructions were given by the new President. Short talks were given by Elders Harold L. White and Walter F. Whitehead.

On June 5th the Missionary Elders of the Hull Conference met at Grimsby in their monthly gathering. Encouraging reports were given and supplemented by the testimony of each Elder. Among other things noteworthy was the report that the "Book of Mormon League", organised in March of this year, had to date been responsible for the sale of forty-one copies of the Book of Mormon by resident members and friends. Sister Ellen M. Cavanagh of the Gainsborough Branch stood first in sales with twelve to her credit. Eleven other local persons made sales during the period.

On Saturday, June 6th, the missionaries of the Leeds Conference met at Bradford for their regular monthly meeting. All present reported that they were feeling well in their work and were making a concerted effort to put into practice some of the suggestions that were given a month ago, for increasing their efficiency. Elder David W. Eardley gave a talk on one phase of public speaking, "Choosing a Subject." Instructions were given for the ensuing month by Elder Don J. Thurgood and President E. J. Johnson.

CONTENTS

Progress of Missionary Work... 401
The Scottish Conference... ... 406
Poetry:
The Higher View 407
Editorial: Mutual Improvement 408
The Kidderminster Dedication 409
Greetings 411
From the Mission Field 415

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